

for college under the President's plan. And, of course, as student borrowing increases, so does the cost to taxpayers because it is taxpayers who will be footing the bill for all that student loan money that is never paid back.

Now, both President Biden's outright student loan forgiveness and his student loan forgiveness masquerading as income-driven repayment are going to cost the taxpayers a lot of money. There are the direct costs of the plan that will be paid for by the Federal Government—in other words, by taxpayers, including those who never went to college and those who have already paid off their student loans.

There are the indirect costs, like the fact that the President's student loan giveaway is likely to prolong our current inflation crisis. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, where President Biden's own Treasury Secretary once served on the board, has estimated that the President's plan would “meaningfully boost inflation”—“meaningfully boost inflation.” Now, you would think that the President might have learned his lesson after helping to set off the worst inflation crisis in 40 years with his massive American Rescue Plan spending spree but apparently not.

It is important to remember that taxpayers are going to be footing the bill for student loan cancellation for Americans who, if they graduated from college, enjoy greater long-term earning potential than many of the Americans who will be helping to shoulder the burden for their debts. This isn't a government handout for the needy; this is a government handout that will disproportionately benefit Americans who are better off.

Of course, the President's student loan giveaway will do nothing—nothing—to address the root of the problem, and that is soaring college costs. In fact, it is likely to make things worse. Faced with the knowledge that many of their students will never have to fully pay off their loans, colleges will have zero incentive to cut costs, and students are likely to feel less pressure to choose a more affordable college option since there is a good chance they will only have to pay back part of their student loan debt and might even have it forgiven entirely.

It is not hard to imagine a future Democrat President deciding that it is politically expedient to imitate President Biden and just cancel a huge portion of student loan debt outright, especially since college costs and college debt will continue to soar under the President's plan.

Whether President Biden has the legal authority to implement the debt cancellation he proposed is really questionable. He used a law called the HEROES Act, drafted to give the President authority to provide student loan relief in times of war or national emergency and specifically to provide relief to the large number of soldiers deployed to the Middle East in the wake

of September 11. It was not intended to provide for widespread student loan forgiveness in a time of peace and low unemployment.

The President himself raised questions about his authority to forgive student loans in a 2021 townhall meeting. The former Democrat Speaker of the House stated plainly—plainly—that the President didn't have this authority. Between bullying from the far left and the prospect of gaining votes in the 2022 election, the President went ahead anyway. And now—now—taxpayers will be saddled with close to an additional trillion dollars in debt on top of the other reckless spending by the Biden administration and the Democrat Congress.

It is not just Republicans who have raised serious concerns about the President's student loan plans. So has the Washington Post and at least one scholar at the left-of-center Brookings Institution and the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, where, as I said earlier, the President's own Treasury Secretary once served. And the list goes on.

The President's student loan giveaway is yet another disastrous economic plan coming from the Biden administration, and if it goes into effect, it will be the American taxpayers who once again will be paying the price.

I yield the floor.

#### NOMINATION OF JAMAR K. WALKER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Jamar Walker to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Mr. Walker's commitment to public service and deep ties to the Virginia legal community will serve the district court well.

Born in Nassawadox, VA, Mr. Walker received his B.A. from the University of Virginia in 2008 and his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2011. He then clerked for Judge Raymond A. Jackson, whom he has now been nominated to succeed, on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Mr. Walker began his career in private practice in Washington, DC, where he specialized in commercial insurance litigation and products liability. He then joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia as an Assistant U.S. Attorney assigned to the Financial Crimes and Public Corruption Unit. In this role, Mr. Walker has prosecuted a wide range of cases, including bribery, money laundering, wire fraud, bank fraud, foreign corrupt practices, and securities fraud. Following 7 years of dedicated service, Mr. Walker was named the unit's acting chief in 2022.

Mr. Walker has spent nearly his entire legal career litigating in Federal court, and he has gained significant experience in both civil and criminal matters. In recognition of his expertise, the American Bar Association rated him “well qualified” to serve on the district court. He also has the

strong support of Senators WARNER and KAINE. And if confirmed, Mr. Walker would make history as the first openly LGBTQ article III Judge to serve in the State of Virginia.

I will vote in favor of his nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. THUNE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote for 11:30 a.m. take place now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VOTE ON WALKER NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Walker nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted “nay” and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted “yea.”

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 26 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kennedy	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Lujan	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Welch
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Grassley	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

#### NAYS—41

Barrasso	Boozman	Britt
Blackburn	Braun	Capito